

Henry of Virginia

John Henry of *The Retreat* near Richmond, Virginia, son of Alexander and Jean (Robertson) Henry of Aberdeen Scotland. He emigrated to Virginia before 1730 to Hanover County where he was a Colonel of the Militia and a Presiding Magistrate. He was married to Sarah (Winston) Syme, a daughter of Isaac and Mary (Dabney) Winston.

Issue:

- William Henry.
- Jane Henry married Colonel Samuel Meredith.
- Sarah Henry married Thomas Thomas of Bristol.
- Susanna Henry married General Thomas Madison.
- Mary Henry married Luke Bowyer.
- Anne Henry married Colonel George William Christain (killed by Indians near Louisville, Kentucky in 1784).
- Elizabeth Henry married 1st, General William Campbell, 2d, General William Russell.
- Lucy Henry married Colonel Valentine Wood of Goochland County, Virginia.



Patrick Henry

- Patrick Henry, "*Give me Liberty or Give me Death!*" was born 5/29/1736, died 6/6/1799 in Red Hill, Charlotte County, Virginia. In 1766 he was a resident of Louisa County, Virginia.

He studied law and was admitted to the bar by George Wythe and John Randolph in Williamsburg. He was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1765 and was among those who offered resolutions to enforce

the Stamp Act in Virginia. He became a famous lawyer and only took cases for the highest legal fees. His eloquent delivery won for him many cases and he quickly became famous. One such famous case was that of young James Holland of Goochland County, accused of killing a young man in Botetourt. Patrick, always in need of money, took the case.

"About the year 1792, one Holland killed a young man in Botetourt...Holland had gone up from Louisa as a schoolmaster, but had turned out badly, and was very unpopular. The killing was in the night, and was generally believed to be murder...At the instance of the father and for a reasonable fee, Mr. Henry undertook to go to Greenbrier court to defend Holland. Mr. Winston and myself were the judges. Such were the prejudices there, as I was afterwards informed by Thomas Madison, that the people declared that even Patrick Henry need not come to defend Holland, unless he brought a jury with him."

"On the day of the trial the court-house was crowded, and I did not move from my seat for fourteen hours, and had no wish to do so. The examination took up a great part of the time, and the lawyers were probably exhausted. Breckenridge was eloquent, but Henry left no dry eye in

the court-house. The case, I believe, was murder, though, possibly, manslaughter only; and Henry laid hold of this possibility with such effect as to make all forget that Holland had killed the storekeeper, and presented the deplorable case of the jury's killing Holland, an innocent man. He also presented, as it were, at the clerk's table, old Holland his wife, who were then in Louisa, and asked what must be the feeling of this venerable pair at this awful moment, and what the consequences to them of a mistaken verdict affecting the life of their son."

"He caused the jury to lose sight of the murder they were then trying, and weep with the old Holland and his wife, whom he painted, and perhaps proved to be, very respectable. All of this was done in a manner so solemn and touching, and a tone so irresistible, that it was impossible for the stoutest heart not to take sides with the criminal...The result of the trial was, that, after a retirement of a half or quarter of an hour, the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty! But on being reminded by the court that they might find an inferior degree of homicide, they brought in a verdict of manslaughter." Patrick Henry, pp. 376-377.

Patrick Henry's eloquence in support of the colonial cause was observed by George Mason who said: "He is by far the most powerful speaker I ever heard. Every word he utters, not only engages, but commands, the attention; and your passions are no longer your own when he addresses them...." After the Virginia Convention of August 1774, Roger Atkinson said of him: "He was a very devil in politics, and a son of thunder...."

In 1776 Patrick Henry was appointed the first Governor of Virginia, which office he held until 1785/6. He married 1st, in 1754, Sarah Shelton (died 1775), the daughter of John Shelton, and 2d, on 10/9/1777, Dorothea Spotswood Dandridge.

Issue by 1st marriage;

1. Martha Henry married John Fontaine, son of Rev. Peter Fontaine.
2. John Henry.
3. William Henry.
4. Anne Henry married Spencer, Roane, Judge of Court of Appeals of Virginia.
5. Elizabeth Henry 4/23/1769-10/24/1842, married 10/12/1786 Philip Aylett of King William County.
6. Edward Henry, unmarried.

Issue by 2d marriages;

7. Dorothea Spotswood Henry, born 8/2/1778, married in 1799, George Dabney Winston.
8. Sarah Butler Henry, born 1/4/1780, married 1st, Robert Campbell, 2d, Alexander Scott of Fauquier County, Virginia.
9. Martha Catherine Henry, born 11/3/1781, married Edward Henry, son of Judge James and Sarah (Scarborough) Henry of Northumberland County, Virginia.

10. Patrick Henry, born 8/15/1783, married Elvira Cabell, daughter of Colonel William Cabell of Union Hill, Nelson County, Virginia.
11. Fayette Henry, born 10/29/1785.
12. Alexander Spotswood Henry, born 6/2/1788, married Pauline Cabell, daughter of Dr. George Cabell of Lynchburg, Virginia.
13. Nathaniel Henry 4/7/1790–1850 married Virginia Woodson.
14. Richard Henry, born 3/27/1792, died infancy.
15. Edward Winston Henry, born 1/21/1794, married Jane Youille.
16. John Henry, born 216/1796, died 1/7/1868, resided Red Hill, Charlotte County, Virginia, married 10/19/1826, Elvira Brice McClelland. Issue.
 - a. Margaret Ann Henry, born 10/4/1827 married 11/29/1849 William A. Miller of Lynchburg, Virginia.
 - b. Elvira Bruce Henry, born 7/2/1829, married 1st, 5/9/1848, Jesse A. Higginbotham and 2d, 11/19/1851, Alexander F. Taylor.
 - c. William Wirt Henry of Richmond Virginia, lawyer, born 2/14/1831 Red Hill, Charlotte County, Virginia, died 12/5/1900.
 - d. Thomas Stanhope Henry, born 7/22/1833, married 1/1858 Mary E. Gaines. Issue.
 - i. Mary Gaines Henry, born 5/29/1859.
 - ii. Thomas Stanhope Henry, born 6/5/1863.
 - iii. Robert Gaines Henry, born 12/4/1866.
17. Jane Robertson Henry, born 1/15/1798, died infancy.
 - e. Laura Helen Henry 3/15/1836–7/4/1856, married 3/1855 Dr. James W. Carter.
 - f. Emma Cabell Henry, born 2/14/1838, married 12/22/1858, Major James B. Ferguson of Richmond, Virginia.